



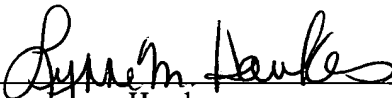
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Allen Carl. et al. EXAMINER: David C. Comstock  
U.S.S.N.: 10/601,014 GROUP: 3733  
FILED: June 20, 2003 Conf. No. 7152  
FOR: SYSTEMS, METHODS, DEVICES AND DEVICE KITS FOR FIXATION OF  
BONES AND SPINAL VERTEBRAE (AS-AMENDED)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV 971737266 US in an envelope addressed Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 8, 2007.

By:   
Lynne Hawkes

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION SUBMITTED WITH RCE**

Sir:

The following is in reply to the Final Office Action September 8, 2006, in the above referenced application and is being filed concurrently herewith with an RCE.

A petition has also been filed herewith requesting a two (2) month extension of time to February 8, 2007, to respond to the above referenced Final Action. Applicants also conditionally petition for a further extension time to provide for the possibility that such a petition is required. As indicated below, please charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105** for the required fee.

Applicant: Allen Carl, et al.  
U.S.S.N.: 10/601,014  
Response to Office Action  
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Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to Claims** begin on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.